Grande Prairie Herald

Historical Edition.

OUR PIONEERS' NUMBER

In preparing and publishing this Pioneers' Historical Number, the Grande Prairie Herald has made an endeavor to record the great work done by the early pioneers whose hardihood, foresight and pluck urged them to brave the early trail over several hundred miles of wilderness to push their way into the prairies of the South Peace River country, here to establish their homes and to develop farms that have become the wonder of Western Canada, establishing a reputation for grain and seed growing that has become the envy of grain growers the continent over.

Further delay in recognition of the great work done by these pioneers would be regrettable. Already many of the records of the early days of settlement are becoming obscured and while the publishers have spent two years in an effort to compile reliable information it has been found in all too many instances that folklore is sometimes substituted for fact, and the humorous side of many events has in too many cases overshadowed the more important background of many happenings that were more or less important in the vast work of development that was taking place.

Photographs reproduced on these pages depict in a vivid manner the determination of these pioneers in pushing their way over the rough wilderness that lies between the older settled parts of the province and the Peace River country--how they travelled by winter trails over muskegs and through a wild country that could not be traversed except when

frozen, camping at night in some makeshift cabin if one were available or alongside the trail where night overtook them.

But the brighter side of the story is also shown in the fruits of their accomplishments--the magnificent farms that have been developed from the rolling prairies of the Peace, and the thriving towns and trading and shipping centers that have sprung up to cater to the needs of a great people whose homes have spread far and wide over the Great Peace River country.

Together with the record of this development over the past 21 years will be found interspersed the stories of individual pioneers whose activities have brought them to the forefront in the story of the Grande Prairie's marvellous development. Brevity in the personal records has been compulsory for two very opposite reasons, the one that sufficient facts are not now available from which to prepare a more complete historical sketch and the other that in some instances the life story of an individual would be found so full of activities having a direct bearing on the growth of the north country that a complete story would carry into far more space than could well be allotted.